TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 3, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 28 totaled an estimated 17.4 billion ton-miles, 7.0 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 39 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 662.1 billion ton-miles, down 5.4 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended September 28 totaled 394,348, down 7.5 percent from last year, but 0.4 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 9.3 percent in the East, 7.2 percent in the South and 6.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. The greatest declines were in loadings of coal, down by 17,012 cars (12.6 percent) and grain, down by 7,512 cars (27.1 percent). Motor vehicles and equipment posted a gain of 3,111 cars (16.0 percent). Eleven of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended September 21 totaled 96,291 trailers and/or containers, 2.8 percent above the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 38 weeks of the year was 3,259,367 trailers and/or containers, down 1.9 percent from 1984.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/28/85:

	Loadings in Week ended September 28, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	20,228	D	7,512	27.1	I	922	4.8
Other farm products	3,447	I	219	6.8	I	92	2.7
Metallic ores	12,655	D	5,697	31.0	D	870	6.4
Coal	118,309	D	17,012	12.6	D	2,432	2.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,654	D	101	0.7	D	314	2.2
Nonmetallic minerals	12,140	I	590	5.1	D	1,128	8.5
Grain mill products	10,663	I	474	4.7	D	50	0.5
Food and kindred products	11,696	I	209	1.8	I	390	3.4
Primary forest products	10,998	D	3,175	22.4	D	206	1.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,610	D	187	2.4	I	364	5.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,003	D	1,632	10.4	I	714	5.4
Chemicals and allied products	24,921	D	10	0.0	I	488	2.0
Petroleum products	4,850	I	260	5.7	D	141	2.8
Stone, clay and glass products	10,978	D	679	5.8	D	267	2.4
Coke	4,314	D	928	17.7	D	290	6.3
Metals and products	8,833	D	614	6.5	I	407	4.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,601	I	3,111	16.0	I	1,260	5.9
Waste and scrap materials	9,251	D	274	2.9	I	56	0.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,902	D	802	10.4	D	173	2.4
All other carloads	66,141	I	1,963	3.1	I	2,612	4.1
LCL traffic	154	D	56	26.7	D	17	9.9
Total Cars Loaded	394,348	D	31,853	7.5	I	1,417	0.4
Corresponding week of 1984	426,201						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (39 weeks)	14,581,269	15,517,184	D 6.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
38 Weeks ended September 21	644.7	681.2	D 5.4
Week ended September 28	17.4	18.8	D 7.0
39 weeks cumulative	662.1	700.1	D 5.4

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